(b) The Seminar-cum-Workshop made several recommendations with an emphasis on the ways and means of dealing with operation and maintenance problems faced to SAARC member countries in the field of rural water supply. The member countries have not drawn any joint action plan.

Advanced U.S. AWACS for Pakistan

*167. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States of America is supplying more advanced AWACS to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The US Government is committed in principle to supply an Airborn Early Warning system in Pakistan. No decision has been announced about the type of system to be supplied; nor about the modality and timing of the transfer.

(b) On several occasions, Government has conveted to the US Government India's serious concern at the supply of sophisticated arms to Pakistan, particularly those which act as force multipliers. Government considers that such supplies results in an unnecessary and wasteful arms race in the sub-continent and thereby highten tension in the region.

Financial aid given in LTTE leaders

*168. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a request for financial aid was made by the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (LTTE) to the Government of India;

(b) whether the Government of India had handed over Rs. 50 lakhs to Shri Valupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the LTTE;

(c) whether this amount was a part of the deal between the LTTE and the Indian Government to enable both the Governments to sign the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount was made available to the LTTE.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Amendment of the Haj Committee Act, 1959

*169. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate fresh legislation to Haj Committee Act, 1959;

(b) if so, wheher a sub-committee had been constituted for the purpose and whether due representation had been given to various sections of the Committee; and

(c) whether the Committee has since submitted its report to Government and whether the draft

amendments are proposed to be circulated widely to elicit public opinion in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sub-Committee of the Central Haj Advisory Board of the Ministry of External Affairs was constituted in November, 1986 with a view to prepare proposals for amending the Haj Committee Act, 1959. This sub-Committee headed by Shri M. D. H. Farook, Chief Minister of Pondicherry, had due representation of various sections.

(c) The Sub-Committee has submitted its report to the Miniser of State for External Affairs on his capacity as the Chairman of the Central Advisory Board. Government will initiate necessary action after receiving the final recommendations of the Board.

US arms supply to Pakistan

*170. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that America is supplying arms to Pakistan;

(b) if so, what is Government's information on the latest supply in this regard; and

(c) whether Government had conveyed their reaction in this regard to the Defence Secretary of U.S.A. when he visited Delhi recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In March, 1968, the US Administration notified Congress of its intention to sell Pakistan 11 F-16 aircraft, 360 Sidewinder and 200 Sparrow air-to-air missiles.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Establishment of peace in the region after Afghan accord

*171. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the effectiveness and impact of the recent Afghan accord signed between USSR, USA, Afghanistan and Pakistan in Geneva, in the context of need to lessen the tension and establishing peace in the region;

(b) if so, what is the Government's assessment in this regard; and

(c) what steps, if any are being taken by Government to help in the process of eliminating tension and establishing world peace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) If properly implemented, the Geneva accords could lead to a peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue and a lessening of tensions in the region.

(c) Government have been in touch with all concerned to eliminate tension and promote peace.

Fulfilment of plan targets by the States

*172. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of